

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALGAR 00247 012004Z

ACTION EB-08

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R 011935Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL CALGARY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2396
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS CALGARY 0247

PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, CA
SUBJ: TRANSAIR TAKEOVER

1. SENIOR PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES (PWA) OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION HAD APPROVED PWA S TAKEOVER OF TRANSAIR AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PWA AIR SERVICES LINKING WINNIPEG, REGINA, AND SASKATOON WITH EDMONTON AND CALGARY. PWA WAS COMMITTED TO PURCHASE 72.9 PERCENT OF TRANSAIR'S OUTSTANDING COMMON STOCK AT DOLS 1.75 A SHARE. ONLY UNRESOLVED ISSUE IN TAKEOVER WAS TRANSFER OF TRANSAIR ROUTES TO TORONTO AND NORTHERN ONTARIO TO OTHER CARRIER(S).

2. PWA HAS PLANS TO ACQUIRE SEVERAL MORE BOEING-737 JETS OVER NEXT FEW YEARS AND MAY ALSO SEEK TO REPLACE F-28 AND YS-11 AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY IN TRANSAIR INVENTORY. PWA OFFICIAL STATED THAT HIS COMPANY WOULD PROBABLY ALSO PURCHASE TWO WIDE BODIED AIRCRAFT (DC-10'S, BOEING-747'S, OR LOCKHEED L-1011'S) FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS TO HAWAII, MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN.

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3. COMMENT: ACQUISITION OF TRANSAIR MAKES PWA CANADA S LARGEST REGIONAL AIRLINE, AND PWA MANAGEMENT HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL REGIONAL (WESTERN) ROUTES NOW SERVICED BY CP. PWA EXECUTIVE INDICATED THAT HIS COMPANY WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS BY ASKING FOR ROUTES TO PORTLAND, OREGON AND MINNEAPOLIS IN NEXT ROUND OF CANADIAN-U.S. BILATERAL AIR NEGOTIATIONS.

ACQUISITION OF WIDE BODIED AIRCRAFT WOULD PUT PWA IN HEAD
TO HEAD COMPETITION WITH WARDAIR FOR CHARTER MARKET IN THE
PRAIRIE PROVINCES.
RATTRAY

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